
Daily sitting 4

Friday, November 23, 2018

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

At 9.05 a.m. the House recessed. At 9.10 a.m. the House resumed.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to extend Oral Questions by four minutes.

Following Oral Questions, it was agreed by unanimous consent to extend Oral Questions by an additional four minutes.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Savoie rose on a point of order and submitted that supplementary questions should relate to the original question, and that Members should refer to his party as the Progressive Conservative Party, not the Conservative Party. Mr. Arseneault spoke on the point of order. Mr. Speaker ruled the first point well taken, and with respect to the second point, requested that Members refer to each party represented in the House by their proper name.

Mr. Northrup, Member for Sussex-Fundy-St. Martins, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to consider a request to sell wine and beer at the Penobsquis Corner Gas Station. (Petition 1)

Ms. Landry gave Notice of Motion 5 that on Thursday, November 29, 2018, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Harvey:

WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments signed the Canada-New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care Agreement on August 30, 2017, allowing New Brunswick access to \$30 million in federal funding to make child care more affordable;

WHEREAS affordable child care solves many challenges such as retaining and repatriating young professionals, growing the population through affordability of starting and growing families, growing the labour force by making it possible for both parents to work, and breaking the cycle of poverty by allowing people to leave income assistance for work without facing massive child care bills;

WHEREAS through that Canada-New Brunswick Agreement, New Brunswick has created programs that assist child care operators through one-time quality improvement grants, annual quality grants, increased wages for early childhood educators, and infant operator grants;

WHEREAS through that Canada-New Brunswick Agreement, New Brunswickers now benefit from free child care and subsidized child care in large regions of the province;

WHEREAS the planned completion of the rollout of this program has been budgeted and planned for the northeast of the province in January 2019 and the capital region in February 2019, fulfilling the commitment to parents to have the program available provincewide by March 2019;

WHEREAS families in the regions of the province expecting these important services should not have their access to these important programs delayed;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the government to continue the implementation of these child care programs on the planned schedule.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 6 that on Thursday, November 29, 2018, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS the now-Premier said on May 29, 2012, when commenting on the New Brunswick Tuition Rebate program, that “we do not know whether the program actually brings people back into the province or encourages them to return.”;

WHEREAS the evidence showed that New Brunswick Tuition Rebate was not effective in its policy goal of keeping more young people in New Brunswick through the reports of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission which showed that retention rates of graduates did not improve over the course of the programs existence;

WHEREAS the Free Tuition program and the Tuition Relief for the Middle Class program helped 7,744 students alone in the most recent academic year;

WHEREAS both the Free Tuition program and the Tuition Relief for the Middle Class program have become leaders in the standard of excellence for post-secondary funding as outlined in the Higher Education Strategy Associates Targeted Free Tuition: A Global Analysis;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the government to maintain the Free Tuition and Tuition Relief for the Middle Class programs.

Mr. D'Amours gave Notice of Motion 7 that on Thursday, November 29, 2018, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. McKee:

WHEREAS the paramedics' union has identified wages as the primary cause for the current paramedic shortage;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the government to immediately begin talks with the paramedics' union to increase wages for paramedics.

Mr. C. Chiasson gave Notice of Motion 8 that on Thursday, November 29, 2018, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Thériault:

WHEREAS the now-Premier said on December 10, 2015, "I do not deny that we have too many hospitals. I realize we can be much better if we consolidate";

WHEREAS the now-Health Minister said on December 12, 2012,

"We have to look at the critical mass. We have to look at the needs. There is not a Costco in Perth-Andover either, because there would not be enough critical mass to sustain the place. Those are the things we have to look at. There is enough critical mass to provide a hospital. It will be a hospital. (...) Maybe that is the wrong word, but is there enough business to sustain the operation? If not, we cannot pay people \$400 000 to sit around when there is only enough work for one day a week. If you do not understand that, I cannot explain it any better. It is pretty basic arithmetic where I come from";

WHEREAS the Premier said on November 21, 2018, "We will look at all aspects of what we are planning, what has been planned, what is working, and what is not working, because we must";

WHEREAS rural hospitals provide important access to health care;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the government to maintain the existing level of services in all of New Brunswick's regional and rural hospitals.

Mr. LePage gave Notice of Motion 9 that on Thursday, November 29, 2018, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Harris:

WHEREAS hours of care for nursing home residents is as high as 3.8 hours in Alberta and 3.25 hours in Nova Scotia, but is only 3.1 hours in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS a pilot project completed in 2010 and 2011 showed evidence that there would be benefits from increased hours of care;

WHEREAS there is currently a shortage of nursing home professionals which would make an immediate increase to the hours of care impractical to implement;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the government to immediately develop and launch, in partnership with stakeholders, a recruitment and retention strategy for nursing home workers, including nurses, licensed practical nurses and resident attendants;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House urge the government to increase the level of care to 3.5 hours per nursing home resident as soon as practicable.

Ms. Harris gave Notice of Motion 10 that on Thursday, November 29, 2018, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc:

WHEREAS New Brunswick students carry an average student debt of \$35,200 and are charged prime +2.5% on the provincial portion of their loans;

WHEREAS all other Atlantic provinces have eliminated interest on provincial student loans;

WHEREAS the previous government budgeted for the elimination of interest on provincial student loans;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the government to implement the planned elimination of interest on provincial student loans.

Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

The Order of the Day being read that the House proceed to take into further consideration the amendment to the proposed Address in answer to Her Honour's speech at the opening of the session,

And the debate continuing,

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 2.10 p.m., the House adjourned.